

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 13-15 and 17-21, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method of distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing the network device, comprising:

a designation step of designating range information for searching for a network device connected to the network;

a search step of searching for the network device corresponding to the designated range information ~~on the basis of the designated range information~~; and

a distribution step of distributing a device driver control program to the client apparatus for managing the network device within the range searched ~~by the processing~~ in the search step.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an acquisition step of acquiring address information of the network device on the basis of data obtained by the result of search of the network device in the search step,

wherein the distribution step performs the distribution process by using the address information acquired ~~by the processing~~ in the acquisition step.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a recognition step of recognizing a preparation completion notification indicating that an accepting module which is activated in the client apparatus as a transfer destination of the device driver control program and receives the device driver control program is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the device driver control program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification ~~by the processing~~ in the recognition step.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the acquisition step acquires network address information corresponding to the range information for search, on the basis of data obtained by the result of search of the network device.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the range designated to search for the network device is designated for each domain, each OU (Organization Unit) in a directory service, or each IP address.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

designating means for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range information ~~on the basis of the designated range information~~; and

distributing means for distributing a device driver control program to said client apparatus for managing said network device within the range searched by said searching means.

7. (Currently Amended) A program for allowing a computer to execute information processing for distributing across a network a device driver control

program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

a designation module for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range information ~~on the basis of the designated range information~~; and

a distribution module for distributing a device driver control program to a client for managing said network device within the range searched by execution of said search module.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing method of distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing the network device, comprising:

a designation step of designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to the network;

a search step of searching for the network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information ~~on the basis of the designated geographical range information~~; and

a distribution step of distributing a device driver control program to a client apparatus for managing the network device within a geographical range searched ~~by the processing~~ in the search step.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the geographical range information designated to search for the network device contains a room, floor, or building of a structure in which the network device is installed, or a municipality, a prefecture, or a nation in which the network device is installed.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a recognition step of recognizing a preparation completion notification indicating that an accepting module which is activated in the client apparatus as a transfer destination of the device driver control program and receives the device driver control program is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the device driver control program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification ~~by the processing~~ in the recognition step.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a setting step of allowing the network device to detect position information corresponding to the geographical range, and set the detected position information in a memory such that the detected position information can be compared with the geographical range information.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the setting step sets the position information corresponding to the geographical range in the memory on the basis of information detected by using a GPS.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

designating means for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information ~~on the basis of the designated geographical range information~~; and

distributing means for distributing a device driver control program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by said searching means.

14. (Currently Amended) A program for allowing a computer to execute information processing for distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

a designation module for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information ~~on the basis of the designated geographical range information~~; and

a distribution module for distributing a device driver control program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by execution of said search module.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method of distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing the network device, comprising:

a first search step of searching for the client apparatus connected to the network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search step of searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by the processing in the first search step by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information; and

a distribution step of distributing to the client apparatus the device driver control program for controlling a network device found ~~by the processing~~ in the second search step.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the script information for generating the second device search module contains range information concerning a network address for specifying the network device or information concerning a geographical range.

17. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

first searching means for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

second searching means for searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by said first searching means by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information; and

distributing means for distributing to said client apparatus the device driver control program for controlling a network device found by said second searching means.

18. (Currently Amended) A program for allowing a computer to execute information processing for distributing across a network a device driver control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

a first search module for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search module for searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information; and

a distribution module for distributing to said client apparatus the device driver control program for controlling a network device found by execution of said second search module.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a device driver control program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

a designation module for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range information ~~on the basis of the designated range information~~; and

a distribution module for distributing a device driver control program to a client for managing said network device within the range searched by execution of said search module.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a device driver control program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

a designation module for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information ~~on the basis of the designated geographical range information~~; and

a distribution module for distributing a device driver control program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by execution of said search module.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a device driver control program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

a first search module for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search module for searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information; and

a distribution module for distributing to said client apparatus the device driver control program for controlling a network device found by execution of said second search module.